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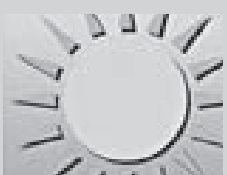
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Weather



TODAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUDS

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -13



TUESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF -2
LOW OF -10



WEDNESDAY:
SUNNY

HIGH OF 5
LOW OF -1



THURSDAY:
SNOW OR
RAIN

HIGH OF 3
LOW OF -2



FRIDAY:
MIX OF SUN
AND CLOUDS

HIGH OF -3
LOW OF -11

Local SAFE farm animal sanctuary faces hay crisis



THE SCOOP

MABLE HASTINGS

After purchasing the beautiful 70 acre farm located at 508 Rte de Mansonville in Potton in 2016, Catherine Gagnieux, founder of SAFE, made her long time dream a reality in opening an animal sanctuary. Catherine admits that at first offering a home for farm animals had not been the initial plan however, due to the exposure of the plight of farm animals; she soon realized that she could make a difference by focusing on these animals. When she first opened her SAFE farm there was only one other farm animal sanctuary (now closed) in the province of Quebec as opposed to other parts of Canada.

According to its website: <https://www.safe-refuge.org/> the Mission of the SAFE sanctuary is:

- To change the perception of Quebec's attitude towards farm animals
- To create awareness about the terrible abuse of farm animals
- To educate consumers on their role in the ill-treatment of farm animals
- To acknowledge that ALL farmers are not necessarily at fault

"As a farm animal sanctuary making ends meet especially during the winter is very hard," shares Gagnieux. "We were given charitable status last October in 2018 and we are hoping that it will make a big difference in the long run as the expenses are huge," she stressed.

The unpredictable winter has been long, cold and hard on the animals. Did you know that ruminants (cows, horses, goats, and sheep) need to eat long fibres such as hay to keep warm? Gagnieux explained that the farm has used up their hay supply three times faster this year than last and almost ran out twice. She also shared that matters have been made worse by the fact that the dry summer last year made it a bad year for the hay crop with small amounts now in supply

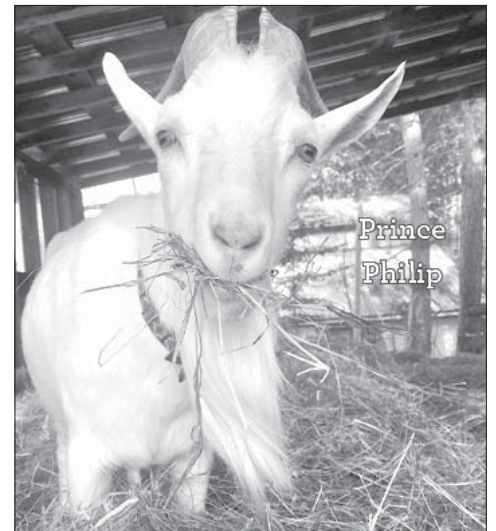
as small farms are hanging on to what they have for their own use.

"Nobody has any left to sell except for large suppliers who are asking that their hay be purchased in large quantities as a minimum order," said Gagnieux. "Our budget and lack of storage space will not allow us to do this. Because the demand is so high and the supplies limited, prices have gone through the roof," she added.

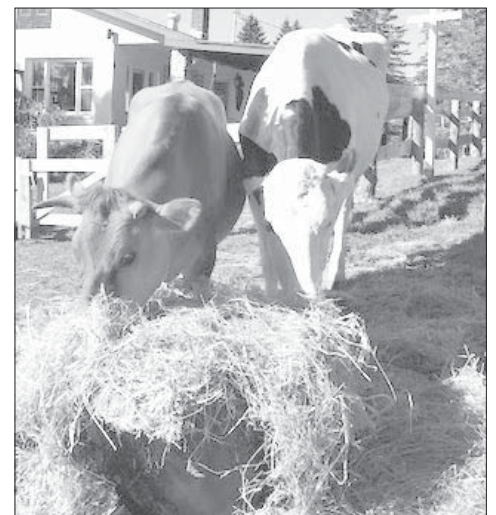
The income for a small non profit farm of this sort is gained through donations, fundraising, guided tours and events which, are few and far between in the winter months. Potton's SAFE farm animal sanctuary is suffering and has now gone into survival mode.

"Surviving is the focus but, I have long wanted to take the farm to the next level and expand somewhat to be able to help other animals," shared Gagnieux. "We are in dire need to order new hay as fast as possible and the last order we received has wiped out the bank account," she continues. "This order will only last a little while and new hay will only be available in June. Please help us feed and keep our animals warm now until summer returns."

There are different ways to offer your support. To find out more about the Potton SAFE farm animal refuge visit: www.safe-refuge.org or email them at: info@safe-refuge.org or, you can become a monthly donor, or make a one-time donation at: www.canadahelps.org/fr/dn/38320



Prince Philip



Neemo and Bailey



Bronco, Shitara, Silver and Shakira

PHOTOS COURTESY

Ben by Daniel Shelton

